

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

Minutes: Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 25, 2007
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting Rm.

I. Roll Vice Chair Arthur called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arefi, Arthur, Dugdale, Grilli, Mateo, McCarter, Ortega, Swiger, and Wan (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
City Council Liaison absent: Vice Mayor Livengood
MUSD Liaison present: Montano
Staff present: Cuciz, Maxwell

II. Alternates None seated.

III. Pledge Chair Grilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Minutes **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of October 26, 2006.

M/S: Dugdale/Grilli Ayes: Arefi, Arthur, Dugdale, McCarter, Ortega
Abstain: Grilli, Mateo & Swiger

V. Agenda **MOTION** to approve the January 25, 2007 agenda.

M/S: Dugdale/Swiger Ayes: All

VI. Announcements/Correspondence

Staff introduced new alternate commissioner Maria Ortega. Staff also noted that the Commissioners Recognition event would take place on April 18, 2007. Staff noted that the Mayor's State of City is schedule for April 26, 2007, which is the same night as the Sister Cities Commission. Chair Grilli asked to have this item agendized for the February meeting to determine if a meeting is needed in April.

VII. Citizen's Forum

None attending.

VIII. ELECTIONS

Staff called for nominations of Chair. Dennis Grilli was named.

MOTION to elect Dennis Grilli as Chair of the Commission.

M/S: Dugdale/Swiger Ayes: All

Chair Grilli called for nominations of Vice Chair. Echo Arthur was named.

MOTION to elect Echo Arthur as Vice Chair of the Commission.

M/S: Swiger/Dugdale Ayes: All

IX. Old Business

1. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Chair Grilli will contact Huizhou representatives to determine if they will be sending a delegation to Milpitas during 2007. Grilli noted that a Huizhou delegation could visit Milpitas at any time; however, the preference would be during the school year if it were a student exchange. He noted that no applications were received to visit Huizhou. Commissioner Swiger noted that there might be problems with students going to Huizhou, as well as the Philippines. He suggested changing the MOU for a goal of visiting every other year. Grilli would like to find a way to stimulate interest in Huizhou from students. He has attended many school events to try and generate interest. He noted that the condition of the world at this time could cause parents to have fears about sending their children abroad and there could also be economic reasons. He stated that it would help if a teacher on campus had an interest and was able generate interest by the students. The commission really needs someone on campus to recruit. Commissioner Dugdale noted that parents like the idea of a teacher being present during the visit. MUSD Liaison Montano suggested contacting the business academy. Vice Chair Arthur stated that perhaps a corporation could help sponsor a visit. Commissioner Wan stated that he has been working with Chinese organizations for a few years – he offered to do some research about sponsors. Wan also noted that he would like to spend time talking to Chinese teachers to see if they can help.

2. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILLIPINES: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Chair Grilli informed Dagupan that Milpitas would not be visiting this year. He also noted that the next trip from Dagupan to Milpitas will most likely be sometime in 2008. Commissioner Mateo will contact Dagupan to determine if they will be sending a delegation in 2008.

3. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN: SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

Vice Chair Arthur reported that she went to school open houses and that 18 people signed up showing interest in Tsukuba. She also placed ads in the Milpitas Post through February and has received one application. Dugdale suggested contacting the school to have Tsukuba information included in the morning announcements. Arthur will also see if the information can be included in the Principals letter as well. Montano noted that many young people are interested in Japanese pop culture. Commissioner Arefi suggested possibly opening up the visits to high school students. Grilli noted that only middle school students have participated and this has worked very well. Commissioner McCarter stated that the students exchanges are competing with trips such as those to Washington D.C. and there could be financial issues for parents. Grilli agreed that there is probably competition for all of the possible trips.

4. EUROPEAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH

Commissioner Arefi reported that he did not receive much information during the holiday season. He is requesting to forward his communications from the official city e-mail. He noted that he is aware of 28 cities looking for a sister city in the United States.

X. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT

MUSD Liaison Montano stated that Huizhou gave the school district a beautiful painting and invited everyone to come by and view the painting.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Sister City Relationships/Cultural Exchanges:
 - a. Tsukuba City, Japan
 - b. Dagupan City, Philippines
 - c. Huizhou City, China
2. European Sister City Research
3. Sister Cities Commission Meeting on April 26, 2007 (reschedule or cancel)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

No further business was discussed and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 22, 2007.

MOTION to adjourn.

M/S: Dugdale/Mateo Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Recording Secretary

Cindy Maxwell
Principal Administrative Analyst